DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 20-22, 41-43, 46, 50 and 54 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

2.   Claims objection has been withdrawn in view of the submitted amendment.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/6/2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5.   Claims 1, 20-22, 41-43, 46, 50, 52, 54 and 56-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuichi (JP- 2000-259563) in view of Watanabe (US 6,877,031) and Chikawa (JP-08-202509, machine translation has been used for all citations).

(1) regarding claims 1, 22, 43 and 46:

Yuichi '583 discloses a communication controller (Network Management System in Fig. 3) for controlling communication between an apparatus (460 in fig. 3) and a computer (400 drawing 3), comprising:

a sending unit constructed to send data to the computer (detail description, paragraph, 0011, NSM) for enabling a user of the computer to input information, where the information includes a languages in which to create a message (paragraph [0006], lines 14-17);

a receiving unit (detail description, paragraph, 0011, language selection means 350) constructed to receive, from the computer, the information input by the user based on the data sent to the computer by the sending unit (paragraph [0006], lines 14-17);

an obtaining unit constructed to obtain a status of the apparatus (detail description, paragraph, 0011, notice means 370 acquire the trouble ticket);

a message body including information which describes the status obtained by the obtaining unit in a language included in the information (detail description, paragraph [0038], where the sentence prepared in advance is interpreted as the user information, IP address and information on the apparatus combined and paragraph [0041]).

Yuichi '583 discloses all the subject matter as described above except a sending unit constructed to send data to the computer for enabling a user of the computer a plurality of different sets of information, wherein each set of information includes a transmit destination to which an e-mail is to be transmitted, a reply destination to which a reply to the e-mail is to be transmitted from the transmit destination;

a creating unit constructed to create an e-mail which has a body and a header including a reply destination;

However, Watanabe '031 teaches a sending unit constructed to send data to the computer for enabling a user of the computer a plurality of different sets of information, wherein each set of information includes a transmit destination to which an e-mail is to be transmitted (column 8, lines 8-11, where the server provides a user with options to input the destination e-mail address), a reply destination to which a reply to the e-mail is to be transmitted from the transmit destination (column 8, lines8-11, where the server provides a user with options to input the sender e-mail address that has been interpreted as a reply e-mail for the system);

a creating unit constructed to create an e-mail which has a body (column 8, lines 23-30, where the server develops a body of the e-mail to be send) and a header including a reply destination (column 8, lines 31-34, where the sender's address is set as the reply address for the e-mail message (column 4, line 66 through column, line 5));

Having a system of Yuichi '583 reference and then given the well-established teaching of Watanabe '031 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the communication controller of Yuichi '583 to include a sending unit constructed to send data to the computer for enabling a user of the computer a plurality of different sets of information, wherein each set of information includes a transmit destination to which an e-mail is to be transmitted, a reply destination to which a reply to the e-mail is to be transmitted from the transmit destination; a creating unit constructed to create an e-mail which has

a body and a header including a reply destination taught by Watanabe '031 because it is preferable to include user address setting means which enable service user to set an electronic mail address of the service user so that the mail transmitting means describes the electronic mail address set by the user address setting means as the address of the sender of the electronic mail message (column 3, lines 42-48).

Yuichi '583 and Watanabe '031 disclose all the subject matter as described above except input information containing a condition in which the e-mail is to be transmitted from the communication controller;

creating, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to a first condition included in a first set of information received by the receiving unit, a first e-mail, and to create, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to a second condition included in a second set of information received by the receiving unit, a second e-mail; and

a transmitting unit constructed to transmit, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to the first condition included in the first set of information received by the receiving unit, the first e-mail created by the creating unit to a first transmit destination included in the first set of information, and to transmit, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to the second condition included in the second set of information received by the receiving unit, the second e-mail created by the creating unit to a second transmit destination included in the second set of information.

However, Chikawa '509 teaches input information containing a condition in which the e-mail is to be transmitted from the communication controller (paragraph [0008], where it is inherent that a condition has been inputted to the system in order for the system to make a determination as to what to transmit an error message);

creating, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to a first condition included in a first set of information received by the receiving unit, a first e-mail (paragraph [0024] and [0025], where the e-mail is created for a maintenance service organization if one type of error is met, has been interpreted as a first location), and to create, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to a second condition included in a second set of information received by the receiving unit, a second e-mail (paragraph [0024] and [0025], where the e-mail is created for a person in charge if another type of error is met, has been interpreted as a second location); and

a transmitting unit constructed to transmit, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to the first condition included in the first set of information received by the receiving unit, the first e-mail created by the creating unit to a first transmit destination included in the first set of information (paragraph [0024] and [0025], where the e-mail can be transmitted to a maintenance service organization if one type of error is met, has been interpreted as a first location), and to transmit, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to the second condition included in the second set of information received by the receiving unit, the second e-mail created by the creating unit to a second transmit destination included in

the second set of information (paragraph [0024] and [0025], where the e-mail can be transmitted to a maintenance service organization if one type of error is met, has been interpreted as a first location).

Having a system of Yuichi '583 and Watanabe '031 and then given the well-established teaching of Chikawa '509 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the communication controller of Yuichi '583 and Watanabe '031 to include input information containing a condition in which the e-mail is to be transmitted from the communication controller; creating, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to a first condition included in a first set of information received by the receiving unit, a first e-mail, and to create, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to a second condition included in a second set of information received by the receiving unit, a second e-mail; and a transmitting unit constructed to transmit, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to the first condition included in the first set of information received by the receiving unit, the first e-mail created by the creating unit to a first transmit destination included in the first set of information, and to transmit, if the status of the apparatus obtained by the obtaining unit corresponds to the second condition included in the second set of information received by the receiving unit, the second e-mail created by the creating unit to a second transmit destination included in the second set of information as taught by Chikawa '509 because whenever an error occurs it can be notified efficiently, having

maintenance work done on the device quicker and effectively since the source of the error has been informed to the corresponding party.

(2) regarding claims 20 and 41:

Yuichi '583 further discloses wherein the creating unit inserts a sentence prepared in advance into the body of the message based on the status obtained by the obtaining unit (detail description, paragraph [0038], where the sentence prepared in advance is interpreted as the user information, IP address and information on the apparatus combined).

Yuichi '583 discloses all the subject matter as described above except that the message is an e-mail message.

However, Watanabe '031 teaches that the message is an e-mail message (column 1-4).

Having a system of Yuichi '583 reference and then given the well-established teaching of Watanabe '031 reference, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the communication controller of Yuichi '583 to include that the message is an a-mail message as taught by Watanabe '031 because it is preferable to include user address setting means which enable service user to set an electronic mail address of the service user so that the mail transmitting means describes the electronic mail address set by the user address setting means as the address of the sender of the electronic mail message (column 3, lines 42-48).

(3) regarding claim 21:

Yuichi '583 further discloses wherein the controller is a network board mounted on the apparatus (fig. 5, inherent that network controller or any type of controller can be mounted as a piece of hardware in apparatus 300 in fig. 5).

(4) regarding claim 42:

Yuichi '583 further discloses wherein the communication apparatus is a printer, a copying machine or a FAX machine (460 in fig. 3).

(5) regarding claims 50 and 54:

Yuichi '583 further discloses wherein data sent by the sending unit is described in Hyper-Text Markup Language (detail description, paragraphs 15, 37 and 40, since the message is generated/created between the client and the server, it is implicit that HTTP is used since it is defined as a set of instructions made by a computer program that enables your computer to connect to an Internet document).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LENNIN R. RODRIGUEZ whose telephone number is (571)270-1678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30am - 6:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Zimmerman can be reached on (571) 272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Lennin R Rodriguez/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625